

# National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture  
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## FY 2003 Programs in Utah

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies are in the third year of successful implementation of National Fire Plan (NFP) activities. The NFP was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability.

(dollars displayed in thousands)

USDA / DOI	Actual 2002	**Estimated 2003
<b>Preparedness</b>	33,054	47,711
<b>Operations</b>		
<b>Suppression*</b>		
Hazardous Fuel	11,408	19,226
Rehabilitation	4,296	7,888
Fire Facilities	62	
Research and Development	3,136	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	398	413
State Fire Assistance	1,318	1,249
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	1,004	1,003
Economic Action Program	183	314
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54,857</b>	<b>77,804</b>

\* Suppression costs for Utah totaled \$66.7 million in 2002.

\*\* Actual funding will be displayed in the 2003 Annual Performance Report.

## Program Highlights

- In March of 2003, the Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands and area residents, began a fuels treatment project around the historic Pack Creek Ranch near the base of the La Sal Mountains. This project is aimed at reducing the threat of catastrophic wildland fire, treating invasive, non-native species, and improving wildlife habitat.
- Similar treatments are being undertaken by a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Utah sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in the Parowan Front Big Game Winter Range. When complete, the risk of wildland fire will be reduced, non-native species removed, and wildlife habitat improved including foraging areas for mule deer populations.
- With National Fire Plan funding, many local contractors throughout the State of Utah have been hired for hazardous fuel removal projects that reduce wildfire threats to communities and help revitalize local economies.
- The Utah interagency community, under the National Fire Plan, has developed Hazardous Fuels and Wildland Urban Interface committees. These five committees, under the direction of the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, and the State of Utah oversight group, direct and prioritize community assistance, hazardous fuels, and wildland urban interface activities. These committees ensure that landscape treatment projects cover all land ownerships involved.

## Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
  - ## USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.
  - ## Department of the Interior will have a total of 273 firefighting personnel, 39 engines, 3 helicopters, 6 water/foam tenders, 2 air tankers, 1 helicopter, and 1 other aircraft.

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## Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation consists of 1) immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and 2) long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring).
- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restore severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

## Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Approximately 78,700 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 38,600 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface.
- An estimated \$19 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$413,000.

## Community Assistance

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding – \$751,000  
## 76 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$1.2 million
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$252,000
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$314,000.

## Accountability

- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed a uniform set of performance measures to assess program effectiveness for FY 2003 and FY 2004 program measurement.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service, with input from the National Association of State Foresters, developed action plans for nearly all of the 23 tasks in the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The State Foresters and their partners are continuing to develop field guidance for fuels reduction projects.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), a common data collection and reporting system for gathering project plans and accomplishments.

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